steps to check the tendency among the teachers to remain absent from schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not; the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the issues on which Government have laid special emphasis and issued directives to concerned State Governments and Government school, for bringing qualitative improvements in education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) Education is on the concurrent list and school education is primarily the concern of the State/UT Governments. As such the matters relating to education are monitored by respective State/UT Governments. However, the reports of teacher absenteeism have come from a few States. The steps like, restructuring educational machinery, enhancement of disciplinary and financial powers of Heads of schools, involvement of community by constituting governing body for each school, fixing of targets for examinations result, etc. have been taken to address the problems.

For qualitative improvement in education, the measure to conduct pre-board examination, preparing Question Banks conducting bridge courses and arranging special classes for the vulnerable children have also taken.

Defence studies at higher secondary level

2802. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proposed to prescribe defence studies as a subject at higher secondary level;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be done; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider doing it in view of the changing defence and security environment in and around our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA

VERMA): (a) to (c) "Defence Studies" has not been proposed to introduce as a course at the school level. But studies will be given idea about the defence and security environment in and around country, through the social-science curriculum.

Vocational education institutions in Arunachal Pradesh

2803. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vocational education institutions functioning at present in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) the number of students/girls enrolled in these institutes; and

(c) the details of amount funds allocated and released to the State for vocationalisation of higher education in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) As per the information obtained from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh 6 vocational institutions are functioning in the State out of which one is for higher education.

(b) 345 students have been enrolled out of which 112 are girls.

(c) For higher education, University Grants Commission has released a sum of Rs.1.5 lakhs out of Rs.7.00 lakhs allocated to Arunachal University. In addition, an amount of Rs. 6.35 lakhs has also been allocated and released to the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh under the Vocational Education Programme (VEP) in schools.

Posting of Kendriya Vidyalaya Principals at their home town

2804. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether whether it is a fact that as per transfer guidelines of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, a candidate selected for or promoted to the post of Principal is not posted at his/her home town; and

(b) if so, the details of those who have been posted at their